

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, wherein the fuel injector injects water into a gas flow of a fuel cell.

19. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, wherein the coating includes a plurality of layers.

20. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, further comprising: joints including welded seams that come into contact with water and are coated by the coating.

21. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, further comprising:

a guide surface; and a sliding surface, wherein the guide surface and the sliding surface are at least partially coated by the coating.

22. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, wherein the coating is applied according to a galvanic technique.

23. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, wherein the coating is applied by a physical technique including a physical vapor deposition technique.

24. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, wherein the coating is applied by a chemical technique including a chemical vapor deposition technique.

25. (Currently Amended) The fuel injector as recited in claim ~~[[17]]~~ 26, wherein: the coating is made of lubricating varnish on Teflon basis, from materials on sulphur basis,

including molybden sulphide MOS.sub.2, of at least one of carbon, xylan, titanium nitride TiN, and carbon mixtures, including PTEE.

26. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A fuel injector for injecting water as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

a valve needle;

a valve-seat surface formed on a valve-seat member of a sealing seat;

a valve-closure member located at a spray-discharge-side end of the valve needle, the valve-closure member cooperating with the valve-seat surface;

a structure including at least one spray-discharge orifice provided downstream from the sealing seat, wherein at least a portion of surfaces of the fuel injector that come into contact with water are coated by a coating that is at least one of corrosion-inhibiting and friction-reducing; and

an annular elastic sealing ring,

wherein:

the valve-closure member includes a spherical valve-closure member,

the valve-closure member includes an annular groove in a region of the sealing seat, and

the annular elastic sealing ring is introduced in the annular groove.

27. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector as recited in claim 26, wherein:
the annular sealing ring includes an elastomer.

28-34. (Canceled).